

KDA Helps Protect All Kentuckians



**Agriculture
Commissioner
Richie Farmer**

Farmers benefit from the services the Kentucky Department of Agriculture. But so does any Kentuckian who buys gasoline, shops, takes a spin on a Ferris wheel or hires a pest control service.

"The Kentucky Department of Agriculture provides all kinds of services people may not be aware of," Agriculture Commissioner Richie Farmer said. "As a consumer protection and service agency, we touch the lives of every Kentuckian every day."

In a time when many Kentucky farmers are adapting to life without a tobacco price support program, the Department is working to help them find markets for alternative products. The linchpin of the KDA's marketing efforts is the Kentucky Proud program. The Kentucky Proud logo marks fruits, vegetables, meats, sauces, salsas, and many other products that were

grown in Kentucky or made in Kentucky from Kentucky-raised products. Consumers can buy Kentucky Proud knowing that they are buying fresh, high-quality products for their families. Kentucky Proud foods can be found in groceries, restaurants and farmers' markets in many areas of the Commonwealth.

The Kentucky Department of Agriculture is the lead state agency for protecting the health of Kentucky's livestock. The Department also regulates the state's grain industry, conducts youth livestock shows, assists county fairs and farmers' markets, offers a hay testing program and performs numerous other functions for Kentucky farmers. Annual events the KDA conducts include the Kentucky Beef Expo, the Kentucky National Dairy Shows and Sales, and the Commodity Breakfast that kicks off the Kentucky State Fair.

The Office of Consumer and Environmental Protection provides numerous services for Kentucky consumers. Staffers inspect gasoline pumps, commercial scales and price scanners for accuracy, motor fuel and eggs for quality, and limestone for purity. They check amusement rides and other amusement attractions such as ball crawls, go-carts, water slides, laser tag centers and play areas at fast-food restaurants to make sure they are functioning properly.



Swing ride being inspected at the Bluegrass Fair

The number of gasoline pumps in the state has grown to about 50,000 and the number of rides and other amusement attractions has tripled in recent years.

Department employees have been cross-trained to perform various types of inspections in an effort to keep up with their expanding workload.

The Division of Environmental Services regulates the sale, distribution, storage and application of pesticides in Kentucky. It administers the Chemical Col-

lection and Rinse and Return recycling programs.



Kentucky Department of Agriculture workers remove outdated and unwanted chemicals.



Lexington grocer Bob Slone, right, is one of a growing number of retailers promoting Kentucky Proud foods.

About the Kentucky Department of Agriculture

For more information, go to www.kyagr.com. For more information on Kentucky Proud, go to www.kyproud.com.